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REMARKS

Claims 2-15 and 17-36 are pending in the application. Claims 2-11, 13-15, 17-29, 31-36 stand rejected. Claims 12 and 30 have been objected to by the Examiner. The drawings have not been acknowledged by the Examiner. The Examiner's rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action. Claims 1 and 16 have been cancelled.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21-24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kruspe et al. (US 2002/0153136).

Kruspe et al teaches an NMR device that includes a drill collar having non-rotating sleeve containing permanent magnets. The non-rotating sleeve is clamped against a borehole. (Abstract). The non-rotating stabilizer sleeve is fixed to the borehole-wall by activating a clamping piston which pushes one or more clamping ribs into contact with the borehole wall.(paragraph 0036).

With respect to claims 31 and 34, Kruspe et al does not teach or suggest a non-adjustable rib attached to a sleeve that is rotatably coupled to a drilling tubular. Rather, as discussed above, Kruspe et al. teaches a rib that is pushed out into contact with the borehole wall. This contact is described as a clamping action. In the embodiments shown in Figs 1 and 4A of the present invention, a non-adjustable rib on a non-rotating sleeve is shown. As can best be seen in Fig. 4A, the ribs do not push out and clamp against the borehole wall. Thus, whereas the Kruspe et al device can restrict axial movement when the ribs are clamped against the borehole wall, the non-adjustable rib can reduce radial vibration while substantially allowing axial motion of the drill string. Such an arrangement is neither taught nor suggested by Kruspe et al. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 31 and 34 are in condition for allowance.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Examiner objected to claims 12 and 30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 12 and 30, but has not included all the recitations of the intervening claims and the base claim. Nevertheless, Applicant believes that claims 12 and 30 remain in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. No fee is believed due for this paper. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 (414-35025-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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